



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)**

**MEMORANDUM FOR RESERVE COMMISSIONED OFFICER TRAINING (RCOT)
STUDENTS**

FROM: COMMANDER, 23RD TRAINING SQUADRON

SUBJECT: RCOT Nonresident Requirements

1. Congratulations on being commissioned an officer in the United States Air Force and your selection to attend RCOT. The mission of the 23d Training Squadron is to train, motivate, and prepare the finest officers in the Air Force for leadership challenges of the 21st Century. Upon the completion of RCOT, you will become one of these fine officers and a member of the world's most powerful and respected Air Force.
2. RCOT is designed to prepare you to accept the responsibilities associated with being an officer in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. With the start of class 01-01, RCOT will consist of two phases: a read-ahead nonresident program and an intensive two-week resident course conducted at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. The nonresident portion is a prerequisite to the resident course, and it is made up of 15 lessons designed to familiarize you with the Air Force and the environment in which you will work. You can find these lessons on the Commissioned Officer Training Squadron homepage (ots.afoats.af.mil/23ts/index.htm). They are to be completed prior to your entry into the resident course. Following the completion of the 15 lessons, you must take, and pass, a short pretest, which is also located on the COT homepage. If you fail to correctly answer 80% of the pretest questions, you are ineligible to attend the resident program. Those who arrive without successfully completing the pretest requirement will be denied entry into the resident course and immediately returned to their host unit.
3. The nonresident portion of RCOT is the initial phase of your officer training, and its successful completion is a prerequisite to the RCOT resident course. We encourage you to approach the RCOT nonresident course seriously and to complete it expeditiously. If you have questions concerning the RCOT nonresident requirements or the RCOT program in general, please feel free to call us at 1-800-854-0188. Congratulations again on becoming a part of the US Air Force team, and "good luck" with your studies.

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About the Cover

The Congressional Medal of Honor

This book is dedicated to the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for heroism in military action, which this Nation can bestow on a member of its Armed Forces. The first Medal of Honor won by an airman was awarded to Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker for aerial combat in 1918.

On 9 December 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to “promote the efficiency of the Navy” by authorizing the production and distribution of “medals of honor”. On 21 December, the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced “which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War).” President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.

Two months later on 17 February 1862, Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize “the President to distribute medals to privates in the Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle.” Over the following months wording changed slightly as the bill made its way through Congress. When President Lincoln signed S.J.R. No 82 into law as 12 Stat. 523-624 on 14 July 1862, the Army Medal of Honor was born. It read in part:

“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand “medals of honor” to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of the Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection (Civil War).”

With this simple and rather obscure act, Congress created a unique award that would achieve prominence in American history like few others.

The Air Force designed Medal of Honor was created on 14 April 1965. Members of the Air Force and its predecessor organizations have earned Medals of Honor in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and in the Vietnam War. Two additional medals were presented by special Acts of Congress.

The Medal of Honor is awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.